

Military and Veteran Affairs Committee Presentation

May 23, 2023

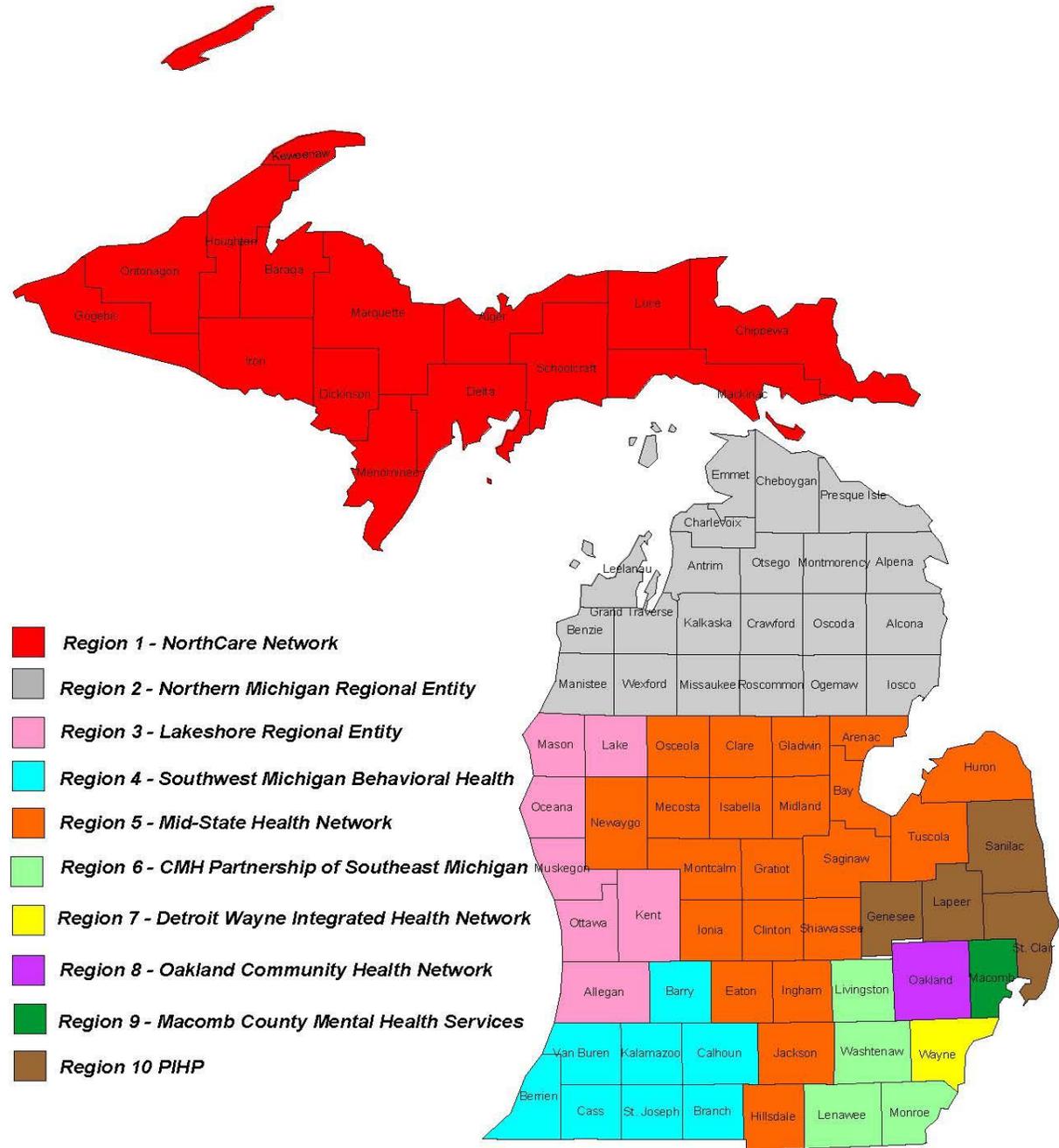


MDHHS/Behavioral and Physical Health and Aging Services Administration (BPHASA) Veteran and Military Family Strategic Plan and Objectives

Walking with Warriors Project

- ❖ **MISSION:** Our mission is to identify, engage and connect Veterans and Military families to mental health and substance abuse resources. This approach has shown to lower stigma, decrease suicides and promote self-advocacy.
- ❖ **VISION:** To create an effective and sustainable program that increases capacity in the publicly funded behavioral health care system. To encourage a proactive approach to the delivery of behavioral health services to Veterans and Military families with a best practice model that is mobile and easily replicated.
- ❖ **VALUES:** Safeguard, respect and encourage the behavioral wellbeing of Veterans and Military families. Collaborate and coordinate with state and local stakeholders to meet the comprehensive needs of Veterans and Military families. Continue to foster relationships with the Federal and local VA entities. Support Veterans and Military families on their road to self-sufficiency.

MDHHS Regional Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans Effective January 1, 2014



Walking with Warriors Program Successes

- ❖ Ten Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHP) Regional Veteran Navigator positions full; Thirteen Community Mental Health (CMH) Veteran Navigators that cover Nineteen counties; and four Veteran Peer Support Specialists.
- ❖ Faith-based program utilized through webinars and annual retreat with focus on Moral Injury.
- ❖ Initiation of THRIVE Training: A Resilience/Suicide Prevention Community Centric approach to Veteran and family care.
- ❖ Ongoing robust relationships with all five Veteran Health Administration (VHA).
- ❖ Overall success throughout our project: over 25,000 Veterans and Military families engaged with since November of 2016; stigma lowered by 72%; and one Veteran suicide in 2017.

Previously Unidentified
Veterans and Military
Families for Mental
Health and Substance
Use Disorder Treatment

❖ FY22 Veterans and Military
Families identified – 3,846

❖ FY23 Veterans and Military
Families identified to date –
3,927

(As of March 31, 2023)

Social Determinants of Health for Veterans

- ❖ Housing Instability
- ❖ Gambling
- ❖ Substance Abuse
- ❖ Depression
- ❖ PTSD
- ❖ Food Insecurity
- ❖ Military Service

Snapshot of Demographics of Veterans Reached

❖ Male 2,870

❖ Female 976

Snapshot of Demographics of Veterans Reached

❖ Army	2,128
❖ Navy	950
❖ Air Force	504
❖ Marines	283
❖ Coast Guard	11

Snapshot of Demographics of Veterans Reached

❖ Honorable	2,169
❖ General/Honorable	825
❖ Medical	587
❖ Other Than Honorable	266
❖ Dishonorable	29

Veteran Eras Most Identified for Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Referral

Three largest demographics:

❖ Vietnam Veterans	996
❖ Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom Veterans	785
❖ Desert Storm Veterans	467

Veteran and Military Family Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder Primary Challenges

Four largest challenges:

❖ SUD - Alcohol	1,291
❖ PTSD	1,483
❖ Depression/Anxiety	389
❖ SUD - Opioids	356

Veteran Insurance Coverage

❖ Medicaid/Medicare	801
❖ Veterans Health Administration (VHA)	698
❖ No Medicaid/No Insurance	581
❖ Private No Medicaid/No Insurance	222

Where are We Referring Newly Identified Veterans and Military Families?

- ❖ Community Mental Health/SUD Providers – 47%
- ❖ Veterans Affairs (VHA, VBA) CBOCs, Local County VA's – 76% Only 40% of eligible Veterans are accessing their VA Benefits Nationwide
- ❖ Housing – 80% (This demonstrates the increases we have identified over the past 18 months)
- ❖ Employment – 18%
- ❖ Education – 12%
- ❖ Transportation – 10%
- ❖ Veteran Service Officer – 40%
- ❖ Legal/Veteran Court – 7%
- ❖ Growing Referrals – Faith 6% and Food 5%

Connecting Our Veterans to Their Benefits

- ❖ Since 2018 we have been aggregating data on Veteran Service Connection Disability increases to demonstrate that our program is reaching those Veterans most at need of resources to improve their quality of life.
- ❖ Contact was initiated by Veteran Navigator.
- ❖ Veteran Service Connection increases for all Veterans since 2018.
- ❖ Veteran Service Connection Disability Federal Funds coming into Michigan since 2018 – \$19,283,216.
- ❖ Most information gathered directly from Veteran or family member.

Survey Results

- ❖ *Individual reports being better equipped to function effectively in community = 74%*
- ❖ *Individual reports greater willingness to reach out for help = 72%*

Questions

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